

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Robert Winchester, et al.
U.S. Serial No. : Not Yet Known (Continuation Application
Filed : of PCT/US99/17178, filed 29 July 1999)
For : Herewith
USE OF INHIBITORS OF THE ACTIVATION OF
CXCR4 RECEPTOR BY SDF-1 IN TREATING
RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS

1185 Avenue Of The Americas
New York, New York 10036
January 31, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Box: Patent Application

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO THE ACCOMPANYING CONTINUATION
APPLICATION FILED UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.53**

Applicants request that the following amendment be made in the
above-identified application:

In the Specification:

On page 1, after the title, please delete the first sentence and
insert the following new sentence:

--This application is a continuation of PCT International
Application No. PCT/US99/17178, filed 29 July 1999,
designating the United States of America, which is a
continuation-in-part and claims priority of U.S. Serial No.
09/127,651, filed July 31, 1998, the contents of which are
hereby incorporated by reference into the present
application.--

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REMARKS

This application is a continuation of PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/17178, filed 29 July 1999, designating the United States of America, which is a continuation-in-part and claims priority of U.S. Serial No. 09/127,651, filed July 31, 1998. Accordingly, the parent application, PCT International Application No. PCT/US99/17178, is pending today in the United States of America pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §363, and the subject continuation application is co-pending therewith in fulfillment of the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §120.

By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have hereinabove amended the specification on page 1 to insert the continuation data. Applicants maintain that the amendments made hereinabove do not raise any issue of new matter. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request entry of the Amendment.

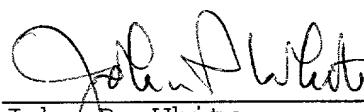
Claims 1-17 were pending in the subject application. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-17 will be pending and under examination.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, applicant's undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone him at the number provided below.

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No fee other than the filing fee of \$355.00, is deemed necessary in connection with this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any additional fee is required, authorization is hereby given to charge the amount of such fee to Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

Respectfully submitted,


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